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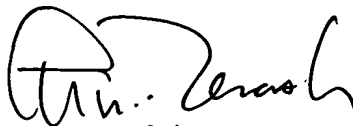
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VERIFICATION

The undersigned, of the below address, hereby certifies that he/she well knows both the English and Japanese languages, and that the attached is an accurate English translation of the PCT application filed on November 18, 2003 under No. PCT/JP2003/14674.

The undersigned declares further that all statements made herein of his/her own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signed this 19th day of April, 2005.

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DESCRIPTION

PHOTO-DETECTING DEVICE

Technical Field

[0001] The present invention relates to a
5 photo-detecting device including a plurality of photodiodes
that are one-dimensionally or two-dimensionally arranged
on the light-receiving surface.

Background Art

[0002] A photo-detecting device is a device such that
10 includes a plurality of photodiodes that are
one-dimensionally or two-dimensionally arranged on the
light-receiving surface, and an integrating circuit having
an amplifier and a capacitor; there are some cases that include
further a signal processing circuit at the later stage of
15 the integrating circuit. In this photo-detecting device,
electric charge corresponding to the intensity of incident
light is outputted from the photodiode, and that charge is
stored in the capacitor. Then, a voltage corresponding to
a quantity of the stored electric charge is outputted from
20 the integrating circuit. Thus, when the voltage is measured
corresponding to the electric charge generated at each of
the plurality of photodiodes, light to be incident upon the
light-receiving surface arranged by the plurality of
photodiodes can be detected.

25 [0003] For example, a photo-detecting device described
in JP-A 2001-24253 (Document 1) is known as the aforementioned

one. In the photo-detecting device disclosed in Document 1, one integrating circuit is provided for a plurality of photodiodes, and a switch is provided between each photodiode and the input terminal of the integrating circuit. In addition, in this photo-detecting device, the plurality of photodiodes are formed on a first substrate, the integrating circuit is formed on a second substrate, and the rim portions of the first and second substrates are connected to each other by a bonding wire. Then, when each of the plural switches is closed sequentially, an electric charge generated in each of the plurality of photodiodes on the first substrate is inputted sequentially in the integrating circuit on the second substrate, and a voltage corresponding to the electric charge is outputted sequentially from the output terminal of the integrating circuit. This photo-detecting device enables an increase of the number of pixels and advanced high density.

Disclosure of the Invention

[0004] After studying the foregoing prior art, the inventors and others find out the following problems. Namely, in the conventional photo-detecting device, a wire path for movement of electric charge reaching from each photodiode to the input terminal of the integrating circuit includes a wire path reaching from each photodiode to the rim portion on the first substrate, a bonding wire reaching from the rim portion of the first substrate to that of the second

substrate, and a wire path reaching from the rim portion on the second substrate to the input terminal of the integrating circuit. When the total wire length is thus long, a stray capacitance in this wire increases. For this reason, in the conventional photo-detecting device, noises contained in the voltage outputted from the integrating circuit are enlarged, which prevents a precise photo-detection.

[0005] The present invention is made to solve the aforementioned problems, and it is an object to provide a photo-detecting device having a structure which enables an increase of the number of pixels and advanced high density, and further enables a precise photo-detection.

[0006] The photo-detecting device according to the present invention comprises N photodiodes (N: two or more integer), a first substrate in which the N photodiodes are provided, a second substrate bump-connected to the first substrate, N switches each having electrically connectable first and second terminals, arranged in the second substrate while corresponding to the N photodiodes respectively, a common wire provided in the second substrate, and an integrating circuit provided in the second substrate.

[0007] Each of the N photodiodes generates electric charge in response to the intensity of incident light. In the first substrate, N first bonding pads corresponding to the N photodiodes respectively are arranged on one surface thereof. The second substrate is disposed with N second

bonding pads that correspond to the N first bonding pads on a first surface facing the first substrate, and that each are electrically connected to the associated first bonding pad among the N first bonding pads through a bump. In addition, the second substrate includes a device formation layer between the first surface and a second surface opposing the first surface.

[0008] Further, the N switches are provided within the device formation layer of the second substrate while corresponding to the N photodiodes, respectively. In addition, each of first terminals of the N switches is electrically connected to the associated photodiode among the N photodiodes through the associated first bonding pad, bump, and second bonding pad. Both of the common wire and integrating circuit are provided in the device formation layer of the second substrate. Additionally, the above common wire is commonly connected to the respective second terminals of the N switches. Furthermore, said integrating circuit is the one that stores an electric charge inputted through the common wire, having the input terminal electrically connected to the common wire and the output terminal for outputting a voltage corresponding to the stored electric charge.

[0009] In the photo-detecting device according to the present invention, when the N switches are closed sequentially, electric charge corresponding to the intensity

of incident lights are outputted sequentially from each of the N photodiodes. The electric charge outputted from each of the N photodiodes moves from the first substrate arranged with the photodiodes to the second substrate through the bump, and arrives at the input terminal of the integrating circuit through the switches on the second substrate and the common wire. Then, a voltage corresponding to the electric charge generated by the photodiode is outputted from the output terminal of the integrating circuit. In such a way, the photo-detecting device can detect the light that is incident on the first substrate arrayed with the N photodiodes.

[0010] Further, in the photo-detecting device according to the present invention, the first substrate provided with the photodiodes and the second substrate provided with the common wire, integrating circuit, and so on are bump-connected to each other. Further, in the second substrate, the common wire and integrating circuit are provided in the device formation layer that is positioned below the layer provided with the second bonding pads for bump connection. In such a construction, in the photo-detecting device, the electric charge movement path reached from each photodiode to the input terminal of the integrating circuit is shortened, thereby reducing a stray capacitance in the wire on the path. As a result, noises contained in the voltage outputted from the integrating

circuit are reduced, which enables to carry out a precise photo-detection. In addition, no circuits for signal processing such as the integrating circuit exist on the first substrate, which enables an increase of the number of pixels
5 and/or high density.

[0011] In the photo-detecting device according to the present invention, the N switches, common wire and integrating circuit are preferably arranged in a region positioned within the device formation layer of the second
10 substrate and corresponding to a region on which the N second bonding pads are arranged among the first surface of the second substrate. In addition, in the photo-detecting device according to the present invention, the input terminal of the integrating circuit is preferably connected to the
15 common wire at a position where a maximum distance of electric charge movement paths reaching from the N photodiodes to the input terminal of the integrating circuit becomes minimum. In either case, this is because further shortening of the electric charge movement path, further reduction of the stray
20 capacitance, and further reduction of the noise contained in the output voltage from the integrating circuit can be achieved.

[0012] In the photo-detecting device according to the present invention, a layout pitch of the bumps disposed
25 between the first substrate and second substrate is preferably shorter than that of the N photodiodes in the

first substrate. Also in this case, further shortening of the electric charge movement path, further reduction of the stray capacitance, and further reduction of the noise contained in the output voltage from the integrating circuit can be achieved. Additionally, it facilitates to make the first substrate smaller than the second one; thus, when the plurality of photo-detecting devices are arranged, the first substrates arranged with the photodiodes can be arranged extremely closely or in touch with each other. Incidentally, a resin is preferably filled between the first and second substrates.

[0013] The photo-detecting device according to the present invention may include M photo-detecting units (M: two or more integer) each defining the N switches, common wire and integrating circuit as one unit. Additionally, the M photo-detecting units each have a structure similar to the aforementioned photo-detecting device (photo-detecting device according to the present invention). Further, the photodiodes contained in the M photo-detecting units are provided in the first common substrate, while the switch, common wire and integrating circuit are provided in the device formation layer of the second common substrate. In this case, M×N photodiodes are arrayed on the first common substrate, which enables a further increase of the number of pixels.

[0014] The present invention will be more fully understood from the detailed description given hereinbelow

and the accompanying drawings, which are given by way of illustration only and are not to be considered as limiting the present invention.

[0015] Further scope of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description given hereinafter. However, it should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0016] Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing a configuration of one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention;

[0017] Fig. 2 is a circuit diagram of an integrating circuit included in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention;

20 [0018] Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing a configuration of the photo-detecting unit and a control circuit included in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention;

[0019] Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing the arrangement relationship between a first substrate and a second substrate in one embodiment of the photo-detecting

device according to the present invention;

[0020] Fig. 5 is a view illustrating a first sectional structure of the first substrate and second substrate in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention;

[0021] Fig. 6 is a view illustrating a second sectional structure of the first substrate and second substrate in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention;

10 [0022] Fig. 7 is a view illustrating a third sectional structure of the first substrate and second substrate in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention;

[0023] Fig. 8A and Fig. 8B are schematic diagrams for explaining a hierarchical structure of the second substrate in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention; and

[0024] Fig. 9 is a view showing a sectional structure of a device formation layer of the second substrate in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention.

Best Modes for Carrying Out the Invention

[0025] In the following, embodiments of a photo-detecting device according to the present invention will be explained in detail with reference to Figs. 1-7, 8A, 8B and 9. In the explanation of the drawings, the same

elements will be denoted by the same reference symbols and these redundant descriptions will be omitted.

[0026] An example of a circuit composition of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention will be first explained with reference to Figs. 1-3.

[0027] Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing a configuration of one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention. In Fig. 1, the photo-detecting device 1 comprises M photo-detecting units U_1-U_M . Each photo-detecting unit U_m has a mutually similar composition, or includes N photodiodes $PD_{m,1}-PD_{m,N}$, N switches $SW_{m,1}-SW_{m,N}$, one integrating circuit 10_m , one CDS (Correlated Double Sampling) circuit 20_m , and one sample-and-hold circuit (hereinafter, referred to as hold circuit) 30_m . Here, M is an integer not less than 1, N is an integer not less than 2, m is an integer of 1 to M, and n (emerged later) is an integer of 1 to N.

[0028] Each photodiode $PD_{m,n}$ is an optical device that generates an electric charge corresponding to an intensity of an incident light. A switch $SW_{m,n}$ is provided corresponding to the photodiode $PD_{m,n}$; the first terminal thereof is connected to the photodiode $PD_{m,n}$, while the second terminal thereof is connected to a common wiring 50_m . The switch $SW_{m,n}$ enables to carry out electrical opening and closing between the first and second terminals. The common wiring 50_m is commonly connected to the respective second terminals of

N switches $SW_{m,1}$ to $SW_{m,N}$ contained in a photo-detecting unit U_m .

[0029] In the integrating circuit 10_m , the input terminal thereof is connected to the common wiring 50_m , and an electric charge inputted through the input terminal is stored in the capacitor. Subsequently, the integrating circuit 10_m outputs from the output terminal a voltage corresponding to an electric charge stored in the capacitor. The CDS circuit 20_m inputs the voltage outputted from the integrating circuit 10_m and then outputs a voltage representing a variation in a given period on the inputted voltage. The hold circuit 30_m inputs the voltage outputted from the CDS circuit 20_m , and holds this voltage during a given period.

[0030] Fig. 2 is a circuit diagram of an integrating circuit 10_m included in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention. The integrating circuit 10_m shown in Fig. 2 has an amplifier, a capacitor C, and a switch SW arranged in parallel between the input and output terminals that are connected to the common wiring 50_m . When the switch SW is closed, the capacitor C is discharged, and then a voltage outputted from the output terminal of the integrating circuit 10_m is initialized. On the other hand, when the switch SW is opened, an electric charge inputted to the input terminal through the common wiring 50_m is stored in the capacitor C, and then a voltage

corresponding to the electric charge stored in the capacitor C is outputted from the output terminal thereof.

[0031] Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing a construction of the photo-detecting unit U_m and a control circuit 40 included in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention. The one and only control circuit 40 may be arranged in the photo-detecting device 1 so as to control the operation of the entire photo-detecting device 1. Specifically, the control circuit 40 closes sequentially the N switches $SW_{m,1}$ - $SW_{m,N}$ contained in each photo-detecting unit U_m , and electrically connects the N photodiodes $PD_{m,1}$ - $PD_{m,N}$ to the input terminals of the integrating circuit 10_m , respectively. The control circuit 40 controls timings of initializations and integral operations at the integrating circuit 10_m by controlling opening/closing of the switch SW contained in the integrating circuit 10_m . In addition, the control circuit 40 controls the operation timing of each of the CDS circuit 20_m and hold circuit 30_m .

[0032] In addition, as shown in Fig. 3, each component of the photo-detecting device 1 is divided and arranged into two substrates of a first substrate 100 and a second substrate 200. Namely, $M \times N$ photodiodes $PD_{1,1}$ - $PD_{M,N}$ are two-dimensionally arranged M rows/N columns on the first substrate 100. Further, $M \times N$ switches $SW_{m,1}$ - $SW_{m,N}$, M integrating circuits 10_1 - 10_M , M CDS circuits 20_1 - 20_M , M hold

circuits 30_1 - 30_M , and sole control circuit 40 are arranged on the second substrate 200. Then, the first substrate 100 and the second substrate 200 are bump-connected to each other.

[0033] When light is incident on the first substrate 100, in each photo-detecting unit U_m , an electric charge corresponding to an intensity of an incident light is outputted from the photodiode $PD_{m,n}$ corresponding to closed switch $SW_{m,n}$. The electric charge outputted from the photodiode $PD_{m,n}$ is traveled from the first substrate 100 to the second substrate 200 through the bump, and arrived at the input terminal of the integrating circuit 10_m through the switch $SW_{m,n}$ and common wire 50_m on the second substrate. Then, a voltage corresponding to an electric charge generated in the photodiode $PD_{m,n}$ is outputted from the output terminal of the integrating circuit 10_m on the second substrate 200. Further, a voltage representing a variation in a given time is outputted from the CDS circuit 20_m on the second substrate 200, and the voltage outputted from the CDS circuit 20_m is held during a given period by the hold circuit 30_m on the second substrate 200. In each photo-detecting unit U_m , N switches $SW_{m,1}$ - $SW_{m,N}$ are closed sequentially; thus, a similar procedure will be carried out with respect to an electric charge outputted from each of the N photodiodes $PD_{m,1}$ - $PD_{m,N}$.

[0034] Next, the arrangement relationship and electrical connection between the first substrate 100 and the second substrate 200 in one embodiment of the

photo-detecting device according to the present invention will be explained in detail with reference to Figs. 4-7.

[0035] Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing the arrangement relationship between the first substrate 100 and the second substrate 200 in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention. In the photo-detecting device, the first substrate 100 and the second substrate 200 are bump-connected to each other, and the photodiode $PD_{m,n}$ arranged on the first substrate 100 and the first terminal of the switch $SW_{m,n}$ on the second substrate 200 are electrically connected to each other. Then, as shown in Fig. 4, the substrates 100, 200 are mounted in a stacked state to be overlapped as is seen from a light incident direction. Additionally, it is preferable that the outer frame of the second substrate 200 as is seen from the stacked direction (the direction perpendicular to the main surface of each substrate) is fit to the outer frame of the first substrate 100, or located inside the outer frame of the first substrate 100 (the size of the main surface of the second substrate 200 is smaller than the size of the main surface of the first substrate 100). Such a relationship in size between the first substrate 100 and the second substrate 200 can be achieved by bump-connecting between the first substrate 100 and second substrate 200. In this case, when the plurality of photo-detecting devices 1 are arranged, the first substrates 100 arranged with the

photodiodes can be arranged extremely closely or in touch with each other.

[0036] Fig. 5 is a view illustrating a first sectional structure of the first substrate 100 and second substrate 200 in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention. However, since a basic pattern is repeatedly shown in the horizontal direction in Fig. 5, only the one basic pattern will be explained in the following.

[0037] The first substrate 100, which is an n-type semiconductor substrate, is formed of a p^+ region 111 constituting a photodiode PD by forming a pn junction with the n-type semiconductor substrate, and of a n^+ region 112 as an isolation region on a first surface of the n-type semiconductor substrate. In addition, on a second surface of the n-type semiconductor substrate that is the first substrate 100 (the surface opposite to the first surface and facing the second substrate 200), an n^+ layer 121 forming an ohmic contact with a bonding pad 124, an insulating passivation layer 122 for passivating the surface, and a bonding pad 124 electrically connected to the n^+ layer 121 penetrating the passivation layer 122 are formed. Further, in the first substrate 100, a through hole penetrating between the first and second surfaces is prepared, and a through electrode 131 is embedded in the through hole. Then, in the first surface side of the first substrate 100, a metal wire 113 electrically connecting the p^+ region 111 with the through

electrode 131 is formed on an insulating film 114, while on the second surface thereof, a bonding pad 123 is formed, which is electrically connected to the through electrode 131. An insulating layer 116 is formed around the through
5 electrode for electrical insulations from the n-type region, n⁺ layer 121 or the like in the first substrate 100.

[0038] The second substrate 200 is a semiconductor substrate including a device formation layer 210; a bonding pad 223 electrically connected to the first terminal of the
10 switch SW, and a bonding pad 224 electrically connected to ground potential are formed on the first surface (the surface facing the first substrate 100) of the semiconductor substrate. Then, the bonding pad 123 of the first substrate 100 and the bonding pad 223 of the second substrate 200 are
15 connected to each other through a bump 423, while a bonding pad 124 of the first substrate 100 and a bonding pad 224 of the second substrate 200 are connected to each other through a bump 424. A gap between the first substrate 100 and second substrate 200 is filled with a resin 300.

20 [0039] Further, a scintillator 510 and a shield material 520 are arranged on the side of the first surface of the first substrate 100. The scintillator 510 is arranged above the p⁺ region of the first substrate 100, and generates a scintillation light when a radiation such as X-rays is
25 incident thereon. The shield material 520 is arranged above the n⁺ region 112 of the first substrate 100, and is a member

for preventing the transmission of the radiation such as X-rays and securing the scintillator 510.

[0040] In the construction shown in Fig. 5, when the radiation such as X-rays is incident on the scintillator 510, a scintillation light can be generated from the scintillator 510. When the scintillation light is incident on the p^+ region of the first substrate 100, an electric charge is generated at the pn junction portion. The generated electric charge passes through the metal wire 113, through electrode 131, bonding pad 123, bump 423, and the bonding pad 223 of the second substrate 200, further passes through the switch SW formed within the device formation region 210 of the second substrate 200, and then arrives at the input terminal of the integrating circuit 10_m. When the switch SW_{m,n} of the integrating circuit 10_m is opened, an electric charge inputted from the input terminal thereof is stored in the capacitive element C. Then, a voltage corresponding to an electric charge stored in the capacitive element C is outputted from the output terminal of the integrating circuit 10_m.

[0041] Fig. 6 is a view illustrating a second sectional structure of a first substrate 100 and a second substrate 200 in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention. However, also in Fig. 6, since a basic pattern is repeatedly shown in the horizontal direction, only the basic pattern is explained in the

following.

[0042] The first substrate 100 is an n-type semiconductor substrate, and an n⁺-type accumulation layer 151 for preventing electric charge recombination and a passivation layer 152 for passivating the surface are formed on a first face (face facing the scintillator 510) of the n-type semiconductor substrate. On a second face (face facing the second substrate 200) of the n-type semiconductor substrate that is the first substrate 100, the p⁺ region 161 constituting a photodiode PD by forming a pn junction with the n-type semiconductor substrate is formed, an n⁺ region 162 as an isolation region is formed, and a passivation layer 152 is formed on top thereof. In addition, on the second face of the first substrate 100, a bonding pad 164 electrically connected to the p⁺ region 161 and a bonding pad 165 electrically connected to the n⁺ region 162 are formed.

[0043] The second substrate 200 is a semiconductor substrate, and on a first face (face facing the first substrate 100) of the semiconductor substrate, a bonding pad 264 and a bonding pad 265 connected to the first terminal of a switch SW_{m,n} are formed. Then, the bonding pad 164 of the first substrate 100 and the bonding pad 264 of the second substrate 200 are connected to each other through a bump 464. The bonding pad 165 of the first substrate 100 and the bonding pad 265 are connected to each other through a bump 465. A gap between the first substrate 100 and second substrate

200 is filled with a resin 300.

[0044] In addition, a scintillator 510 and a shield material 520 are arranged on the side of the first face of the first substrate 100. The scintillator 510 is arranged
5 above the p^+ region 161 of the first substrate 100, and generates a scintillation light when a radiation such as X-rays is incident thereon. The shield material 520 is arranged above the n^+ region 162 of the first substrate 100, and is a member for preventing the transmission of the
10 radiation such as X-rays and securing the scintillator 510. Further, in the first substrate 100, the first face side is etched at the portion in which the p^+ region 161 is formed to thin the thickness of the substrate.

[0045] In the construction shown in Fig. 6, when the
15 radiation such as X-rays is incident on the scintillator 510, a scintillation light from the scintillator 510 is generated. When the scintillation light penetrates the first substrate 100 and subsequently is incident on the p^+ region 161, an electric charge is generated at the pn junction
20 portion. The generated electric charge passes through the bonding pad 164, bump 464, and the bonding pad 264 of the second substrate 200, then through the switch $SW_{m,n}$ formed in the device formation layer 210 of the second substrate 200, and arrives at the input terminal of an integrating
25 circuit 10. When the switch SW is opened, an electric charge inputted from the input terminal is stored in a capacitor

C. Thus, a voltage corresponding to an electric charge stored in the capacitor C is outputted from the output terminal of the integrating circuit 10_m.

[0046] Fig. 7 is a view illustrating a third sectional structure of a first substrate 100 and a second substrate 200 in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention. Though the sectional structure shown in Fig. 7 is similar to that shown in Fig. 5, there is a difference in that a layout pitch of bumps 423 between the first substrate 100 and second substrate 200 is shorter than that of the photodiodes in the first substrate 100. In order to render such a construction, a layout pitch of bonding pads 223 formed on the second substrate 200 is narrower than that of the photodiodes in the first substrate 100. A bonding pad 123 formed on a second face side of the first substrate 100 is lengthened from a connection position with a through electrode 131 to a connection position with the bump 424 in case of necessity. Incidentally, though a bonding pad 124, a bonding pad 224 and the bump 423 are not represented in Fig. 7, these are also provided in a similar way. Additionally, also in the sectional structure shown in Fig. 6, the layout pitch of the bumps 464, 465 between the first substrate 100 and second substrate 200 may be shorter than that of the photodiodes in the first substrate 100.

[0047] A sectional structure of a second substrate 200 in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according

to the present invention will be next explained in detail with reference to Figs. 8A-8B.

[0048] Figs. 8A-8B are schematic diagrams showing a hierarchical structure of the second substrate 200 in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention; Fig. 8A schematically shows an arrangement of bonding pads 290 (corresponding to the bonding pads 223, 224 in Figs. 5 and 7, and the bonding pads 264, 265 in Fig. 6) in a layer where the bonding pads 290 for bump connection are arranged, while Fig. 8B schematically shows an arrangement of a formation region of a semiconductor layer and a gate layer in N switches $SW_{m,1}$ - $SW_{m,N}$, an integrating circuit 10_m , a CDS circuit 20_m , a hold circuit 30_m , and a control circuit 40 included in each photo-detecting unit U_m . In addition, in Figs. 8A-8B, a region F represents a minimum rectangular region including all the bonding pads 290 when the second substrate 200 is seen perpendicularly to the face of the second substrate 200.

[0049] As shown in Figs. 8A-8B, in the second substrate 200, the N switches $SW_{m,1}$ - $SW_{m,N}$, integrating circuit 10_m , CDS circuit 20_m , hold circuit 30_m , and control circuit 40 included in each photo-detecting unit U_m are formed in a layer (device formation layer 210) lower than that provided with the bonding pads 290 for bump connection. Note that the control circuit 40 may be further formed in the device formation layer. In addition, these device and circuit is preferably formed

within the F region. Further, in each photo-detecting unit U_m , when a distance along an electric charge movement path from each of N photodiodes $PD_{m,n}$ to the input terminal of the integrating circuit 10_m is defined as $L_{m,n}$, the input
 5 terminal of an integrating circuit 10_m is preferably connected to a common wire 50_m at the position such that a maximum distance among distances $L_{m,1}$ - $L_{m,N}$ is rendered to a minimum.

[0050] Fig. 9 is a view showing a sectional structure of a device formation layer 210 in a second substrate 200
 10 in one embodiment of the photo-detecting device according to the present invention. As schematically shown in Fig. 9, in the second substrate 200, a semiconductor layer 270, a gate layer 281, an insulating layer 282, a first metal wire layer 283, an insulating layer 284, a second metal wire
 15 layer 285, an insulating layer 286, and a bonding pad 290 are provided in turn from the second face to the first face (the face facing the first substrate 100).

[0051] The semiconductor layer 270 is an n-type semiconductor substrate; an n^+ -type region 271 is formed
 20 therein, and a p^+ -type region 272 and a p^+ -type region 273 are formed within the n^+ -type region 271. A variety of circuits (integrating circuit 10_m , CDS circuit 20_m , hold circuit 30_m , and control circuit 40) are constructed in the semiconductor layer 270 and gate layer 281. The first metal
 25 wire layer 283 is used as a signal wire between or in the circuits. The first metal wire layer 283 and second metal

wire layer 285 each are electrically connected to the semiconductor layer 270 or gate layer 281 through a contact hole at a predetermined portion. Also, the bonding pad 290 is electrically connected to the first metal wire layer 283 through a contact hole at a predetermined portion.

[0052] As described above, in the photo-detecting device 1, the N switches $SW_{m,1}$ - $SW_{m,N}$, common wire 50_m , integrating circuit 10_m , CDS circuit 20_m , hold circuit 30_m , and control circuit 40 included in each photo-detecting unit U_m also are formed in the device formation layer 210 located lower than that provided with the bonding pads 290 for bump connection.

[0053] In such a constructed photo-detecting device 1, downsizing of the second substrate 200 is facilitated, and the electric charge movement path reached from each photodiode $PD_{m,n}$ to the input terminal of the integrating circuit 10_m is shortened, thereby reducing a stray capacitance in the wire on the path. As a result, noises contained in the voltage outputted from the integrating circuit 10_m is reduced, which enables to carry out a precise photo-detection.

[0054] The photo-detecting device 1 having the aforementioned construction (photo-detecting device according to the present invention) can bring the following effects. Namely, the electric charge path from each photodiode $PD_{m,n}$ to the input terminal of the integrating

circuit 10_m is shortened, thus reducing the stray capacitance in the wire on the path. As a result, noises contained in the voltage are reduced, which enables precise photo-detection. In addition, any circuits for signal processing such as the integrating circuit 10_m are not present on the first substrate 100, which enables an increase of the number of pixels and/or high density. It is easier to reduce the size of the main surface of the second substrate 200 as compared with that of the main surface of the first substrate 100, and when a plurality of photo-detecting devices 1 are arranged, it can be arranged while each first substrate 100 provided with the photodiode is arranged extremely closely or in contact therewith. An optimum manufacturing process can be adopted by the first substrate 100 formed of the photodiode array and the second substrate 200 formed of the signal processing circuit such as the integrating circuit 10_m; this point also is preferable.

[0055] Further, as compared with a conventional photo-detecting device (JP-A-2001-242253), the photo-detecting device 1 has the following further advantages. Namely, in the conventional photo-detecting device, the first substrate is connected with the second substrate through a wire bonding; thus, when scintillators are arranged on a first substrate, any scintillators cannot be disposed above pads for wire bonding, or even when the scintillators are disposed thereon, these shape must be rendered to be different

from that of another scintillator. From this matter, in the conventional photo-detecting device, when a plurality of photo-detecting elements are arranged in parallel, a plurality of photodiodes on each first substrate cannot be
5 arranged in a uniform pitch, or the plurality of photodiodes on the first substrate cannot be detected in a uniform sensitivity even in one photo-detecting element. In contrast, the aforementioned problem never occurs in the photo-detecting device 1 according to the present invention
10 since the first substrate is bump-connected to the second substrate, thereby making the second substrate smaller than the first one.

[0056] In the present invention, a variety of variations are possible, not limited by the aforementioned embodiment.
15 For example, the sectional structures of the first substrate 100 and second substrate 200 are not limited to those illustrated in Figs. 5-7 and 9, respectively. In addition, still another circuit (for instance, an A/D conversion circuit converting an output voltage from the hold circuit
20 30_m and the like) may be arranged in the device formation layer 210 of the second substrate 200.

[0057] From the invention thus described, it will be obvious that the embodiments of the invention may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a
25 departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would be obvious to one skilled

in the art are intended for inclusion within the scope of the following claims.

Industrial Applicability

[0058] As stated above, in accordance with the present invention, the first substrate provided with the photodiodes and the second substrate provided with the common wire, integrating circuit, and so on are bump-connected to each other. Further, in the second substrate, the common wire and integrating circuit are provided in the device formation layer that is positioned below the layer provided with the second bonding pads for bump connection. In such a construction, in the photo-detecting device, the electric charge movement path reached from each photodiode to the input terminal of the integrating circuit is shortened, thereby reducing a stray capacitance in the wire on the path. As a result, noise contained in the voltage outputted from the integrating circuit is reduced, which enables to carry out a precise photo-detection. In addition, any circuits for signal processing such as the integrating circuit are not present on the first substrate, which enables an increase of the number of pixels and/or high density.